



US Looks into Blackwater Incident

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department moved quickly Monday to tamp down anger and possible

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telephoned Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to express regret a

"She told the Prime Minister that we were investigating this incident and wanted to gain a full understand

Rice and al-Maliki "agreed on the importance of working closely together in the time ahead on a transpa

The 15-minute call came after Iraq's Interior Ministry said it had revoked the license of the firm, Blackwa

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Washington had not been informed of the cancella

There were conflicting accounts of the incident, in which, according to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, a

While Iraqis blamed Blackwater for the civilian deaths, the company said it acted appropriately "in respo

McCormack cautioned against jumping to conclusions, saying: "There was a loss of life here. There was

McCormack had no information about any Iraqi laws Blackwater or its employees might be subject to, the

He said the probe is being conducted by the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security with assistance

Blackwater, based in Moyock, N.C., is one of three private security firms employed by the department to

The moves by the Bush administration appeared unlikely to forestall a congressional inquiry into not just

"The controversy over Blackwater is an unfortunate demonstration of the perils of excessive reliance on

Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who has long questioned Blackwater's role in Iraq, said the shootings will likely

"Under what law are these individuals operating, and do the Iraqis have the authority to prosecute people

"These are the kinds of things that are very provocative that do impact our mission. It's unclear what exactly

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, struck a less

"Having visited now 10 times in Iraq, most recently just two or three weeks ago, I know full well the dependence

"Any number of activities today in Iraq are performed by rather a courageous band of civilians who have

Associated Press writers Sonja Barisic in Williamsburg, Va., and Mike Baker in Raleigh, N.C., contributed

